

What is claimed is:

1. A method of associating digital images, the method comprising:  
tagging a digital image with a group tag that identifies the digital image as a  
member of a respective virtual film roll (VFR) group of digital images.
- 5        2. The method of associating of Claim 1, wherein the respective VFR group  
is an upload event-based VFR group.
3. The method of associating of Claim 1, wherein the respective VFR group  
is a roll-based VFR group.
4. The method of associating of Claim 1, wherein the group tag further orders  
10 the digital image within the respective VFR group relative to other digital images of  
the respective VFR group.
5. The method of associating of Claim 1, further comprising storing the  
tagged digital image of the respective VFR group in an archive memory.
6. The method of associating of Claim 5, wherein the tagged digital image is  
15 retrievable from the archival memory using the group tag, the group tag comprises  
data that distinguishes the digital image from other tagged digital images of the  
respective VFR group and further distinguishes the digital image from digital images  
in other VFR groups.
7. The method of associating of Claim 1, further comprising:  
20 capturing a plurality of digital images before tagging; and  
grouping a set of the digital images of the plurality as the respective VFR group  
before tagging.
8. The method of associating of Claim 7, wherein capturing the plurality of  
digital images comprises digitizing an image and recording the digitized image using  
25 a digital camera.

9. The method of associating of Claim 7, wherein capturing the plurality of digital images comprises scanning one or both of a negative and a photograph from a roll of photographic film.

10. The method of associating of Claim 7, wherein each digital image of the  
5 respective VFR group is tagged with the group tag, the group tag further ordering each digital image within the plurality relative to other digital images of the respective VFR group, such that each digital image of the respective VFR group comprises a unique group tag including data that distinguishes each digital image from others within the respective VFR group and that distinguishes from digital images of a  
10 different VFR group.

11. The method of associating of Claim 10, further comprising storing the respective VFR group in an archival memory after tagging, each digital image of the respective group being separately retrievable from the archival memory using the unique group tag for each digital image.

12. A method of associating digital images, the method comprising:  
15 applying a group tag to a digital image, the group tag identifying the digital image with a respective virtual film roll (VFR) group, the digital image being a member of a set digital images related to one another either by being uploaded as a set during an upload event or by being created from a roll of photographic film.

13. The method of associating of Claim 11, wherein the group tag comprises  
20 data that distinguishes the digital image from other digital images of the respective VFR group and further distinguishes the digital image from digital images of other VFR groups.

14. The method of associating of Claim 12, further comprising before  
25 applying:  
capturing the digital image; and  
grouping the captured digital image in the respective VFR group,

wherein capturing comprises digitizing and recording one of the digital image or one or both of a negative and a photograph from the roll of photographic film.

15. The method of associating of Claim 11, further comprising storing the respective VFR group in an archival memory after applying, wherein the digital  
5 image of the respective VFR group is separately retrievable from the archival memory using the group tag.

16. An electronic device that digitizes and stores images as digital images, the device comprising:

a computer program, at least a portion of which is stored in the electronic  
10 device, the computer program comprising instructions that, when executed by means for controlling the electronic device, implement applying a group tag to a digital image captured by the electronic device, the group tag identifying the digital image with a respective virtual film roll (VFR) group of captured images.

17. The electronic device of Claim 16, wherein the group tag comprises data  
15 that distinguishes the respective VFR group of captured images from other groups of captured images, the group tag further distinguishing the digital image of the respective VFR group from other captured images of the respective VFR group.

18. The electronic device of Claim 16, wherein the computer program further comprises instructions that implement capturing a plurality of digital images with the  
20 electronic device, the digital image having the applied group tag being a digital image of the plurality.

19. The electronic device of Claim 18, wherein the instructions that apply the group tag further apply the group tag to each digital image of the plurality of digital images, the group tag for each digital image within the respective VFR group being  
25 unique, such that each digital image is distinguishable from one another in the respective VFR group as well as being distinguishable from other groups of captured images.

20. The electronic device of Claim 16, wherein the respective VFR group comprises a set of digital images uploaded together during a single upload event.

21. The electronic device of Claim 16, wherein the respective VFR group comprises digital images created by scanning one or both of negatives and  
5 photographs, the negative and photographs having been produced from a roll of photographic film.

22. The electronic device of Claim 16, further comprising:  
means for capturing an image;  
means for storing at least the portion of the computer program; and  
10 means for controlling the means for capturing and the means for storing.

23. The electronic device of Claim 16 implemented as one or more of a digital camera, a digital video camera, a scanner, a multifunctional machine that includes a scanning function, and an image digitizer and recorder.

24. A digital image storage system comprising:  
15 an image digitizer; and  
an archival storage device,  
wherein one or both of the image digitizer and the archival storage device comprise at least a portion of a computer program, the computer program comprising instruction that implement applying a group tag to a digital image captured by the  
20 image digitizer, the group tag identifying the digital image with a respective virtual film roll (VFR) group of captured images.

25. The storage system of Claim 24, wherein the image digitizer is a digital camera and the respective VFR group of captured images comprises a set of images uploaded from the digital camera to the archival storage device during a single upload  
25 session.

26. The storage system of Claim 24, wherein the image digitizer is a scanning device, the respective VFR group comprising digital images produced by scanning one or both of negatives and photographs from a roll of photographic film.

27. The storage system of Claim 24, wherein the computer program further  
5 comprises instructions that implement one or more of capturing a plurality of digital images with the image digitizer, grouping captured digital images with the respective VFR group of captured images, and storing the respective VFR group in the archival storage device, the group tag facilitating retrieval of any digital image of the respective VFR group from the archival storage device.

10 28. A digital image storage system comprising:  
means for capturing digital images; and  
means for storing digital images,  
wherein one or both of the means for capturing and the means for storing  
comprise at least a portion of a computer program, the computer program comprising  
15 instructions that implement grouping the digital images as a respective virtual film roll (VFR) group and applying a group tag to the digital images of the respective VFR group in response to one or both of uploading the digital images to the means for storing and scanning a group of images, the group tag identifying the digital images with the respective VFR group.

20 29. The storage system of Claim 28, wherein the means for capturing comprises one or more of a digital camera, a digital video camera, a scanner, a multifunctional machine including a scanning function, and an image digitizer and recorder.

25 30. The storage system of Claim 28, wherein the means for storing digital images comprises one or more of a personal computer, a disk drive, a file server, a network disk drive, an internet file storage site and an archival storage device.